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AS OTHERS SEE THE DIRECT METHOD

Editor THE MODERN LANGUAGE JOURNAL:

Below is an exact transcription of a theme submitted in an English course in an American University by a Japanese student who is taking an elementary French course in which the direct method is used.

MR. ————— AS AN LECTURER

I sympathize with that excellent gentleman who rise to his feet before his class and throw himself into an arena of teaching French language. As he enters into the class room, he is seen smiling confidently and he would say, "bonjour la classe—comment allez vous?" and the students will delightfully reply like a three year old child who has just learned how speak, "bonjour monsieur—je vais très bien, merci."

Mr. ————— is a middle-aged man, about forty, clean-shaved and his head is half bald. This venerable old man would, as usual, open his mail and read them before he commence his lecture.

His method of lecturing is certainly a peculiar and a lovable one with full of emotion and tactful humor. He would occasionally say something very joky in French and make the students laugh. He, too, will laugh in a boisterous manner.

His kindly attitude towards his fellow students to teach them whenever they do not understand is greatly appreciable and it touches the innermost human feelings with great impulse. He, at least, knows how to fill our dull head with Français and cork it so tight that nothing could get out of it. Yes, I sympathize with this gentleman whose duty is to lecture from morning till night to the unwilling listerner, and throw himself upon the mercy of his fellow-students—life is not an easy money for him. Worn by the nervous strain of a hard hid (*sic*) of lecturing, I presume that he is glad to be relieved from his routine as soon as the class is dismissed, but his suffering will surely involve a loss of appetite.

W.

Editor MODERN LANGUAGE JOURNAL:

The enclosed letter came into my hands while I was with the American Army in France. It was written by a "doughboy" to his French sweetheart. It illustrates very well, I think, the disastrous results produced by attempt to translate into French by the aid of the dictionary.

Very respectfully yours,

H. F. FENSTEMAKER

Highland Park, Mich.

LETTRE ÉCRITE PAR UN SOLDAT AMÉRICAIN À UNE FRANÇAISE

Mon Cher Lucienne:

Je avoir ecrit seveural letters a vous mais je ne pas recevoir un replique je espoir vous sett pas malade ou fâché a moi? dan tout probabilitè vous devoir etre fâché cause je pas venir a vous voir. Mais vous comprendre je suis confins en la camp aire pour trois mois et je pas venir a vous vois ou sans le permissione de quelque manière que je volonté venir a vous voir en la premeir occasion je avoir.